

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Of claims 1-7 that were pending in the application, claims 1-4 and 7 were rejected in the Office Action. Applicant greatly appreciates the allowance of claims 5 and 6. By way of this amendment, Applicant has: (a) amended claims 1, 2, 6, and 7; and (b) cancelled claims 3 and 4, without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, and 5-7 are respectfully submitted for further consideration.

1. Question Regarding Listing of References Considered

Applicant appreciates the acknowledgement, by way of Examiner initials, that the Examiner considered each of the references listed on form PTO-1449, which was submitted along with the Information Disclosure Statement that was filed on December 19, 2001. Applicant notes, however, that in rejecting claims 2-4 (as later discussed in detail), the Examiner applies U.S. Patent No. 6,519,659 ("Stevens"), which was listed in neither the form PTO-1449 submitted by the Applicant nor the form PTO-892 that was completed by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant understandably wonders whether the Patent Office failed to transmit one or more additional pages of the Examiner's form PTO-892.

2. Rejections of Claims 1-4 and 7

The Examiner rejected: (a) claims 1 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,764,593 ("Turpin"); and (b) claims 2-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious when considering Turpin in view of Stevens. Preliminarily, these rejections are now moot with respect to claims 3 and 4, due to the cancellation thereof, without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, these rejections will be addressed, and respectfully traversed, with respect to claims 1, 2 and 7.

As amended, claim 1 (*i.e.*, the claim from which claim 2 depends) recites peripheral equipment of a computer. This peripheral equipments includes, among other possible things (*italic emphasis added*):

- a communication section connected to the computer via a network;
- an operation section to perform an operation of changing a network setup of said communication section;
- a first storage section to save a *current IP address* set in said communication section;
- a second storage section in which a *fixed IP address* is previously stored;

means for saving in said first storage section the *IP address* set in said communication section in accordance with an operation command from said operation section; and
means for setting in said communication section the *fixed IP address* stored in said second storage section, in place of the *saved IP address*.

Similarly, as amended claim 7 also recites peripheral equipment of a computer. This peripheral equipments includes, among other possible things (*italic emphasis added*):

communication means connected to the computer via a network;
operating means for performing an operation of changing a network setup of said communication means;
first storing means for *saving a current IP address* set in said communication means;
second storing means in which a *fixed IP address* is previously stored;
means for saving in said first storing means the *IP address* set in said communication means in accordance with an operation command from said operating means; and
means for setting in said communication means the *fixed IP address* stored in said second storing means, in place of the *saved IP address*.

As hereafter explained, neither Turpin nor Stevens (standing alone or combined) teaches or suggests such peripheral computer equipment.

Turpin teaches a computer system in which a computer is booted either normally or remotely (via a local area network (LAN) or a wide area network (WAN)). Turpin fails to teach or suggest, however, anything regarding storing and/or switching IP addresses. As a result, Turpin fails to teach or suggest at least the above-italicized limitations of claims 1 and 7. Moreover, Stevens, which also teaches boot protocols for computer systems, also fails to teach or suggest storing and/or switching IP addresses and, therefore, Stevens fails to cure the deficiencies of Turpin.

In light of the foregoing, it is clear that the combination of Turpin and Stevens fails to teach or suggest at least the above-italicized limitations of claims 1 and 7. As a result, Turpin and Stevens (standing alone or combined) can not be used to reject claims 1 and 7, or any claim dependent thereon, under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b), 103(a). Moreover, as claim 2 depends from claim 1, claim 2 is also allowable over Turpin and Stevens, without regard to the other patentable limitations recited therein. Accordingly, a withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 2, and 7 under §§ 102(b), 103(a) is both warranted and earnestly solicited.

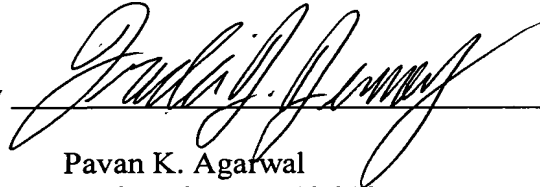
CONCLUSION

For the aforementioned reasons, claims 1, 2, and 5-7 are now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if such communication would expedite the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date JUL 27 2005

By



Pavan K. Agarwal
Registration No. 40,888

Customer Number: 22428
FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
3000 K Street, N.W.
Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20007-5143

Frederic T. Tenney
Registration No. 47,131

Telephone: (202) 672-5300
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Attorneys for Applicant

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